**MAY 2021**

**Tips for Designing Effective Assessments**

The goal of assessments is to provide evidence about the extent of student learning in a unit, course, or program. For assessments to provide meaningful information it is important for them to be written effectively. Please check out the following tips by Hodge and Drewett (2017) in their article, “[5 practical tips for ensuring great assessment design](https://www.rtoadvice.com.au/how-to-write-a-great-assessment/)”. In keeping with Hodge and Drewtt’s suggestions, a useful way to ensure that an assessment is aligned with desired learning outcomes is to consult established rubrics that specify specific criteria related to a given learning outcome that you wish to assess, and then to design your assessment around those criteria. For example, if you are interested in assessing whether students have demonstrated critical thinking skills it is important to first identify the criteria that demonstrate critical thinking skills and then base your design of an assessment around those criteria. The [VALUE Rubrics](https://www.aacu.org/value-rubrics) created by Association of American Colleges and Universities are useful rubrics to consult for criteria that demonstrate undergraduate students’ success in a number of areas such as, critical thinking skills, communication skills, problem solving skills, and quantitative literacy.

**Check out!**Maypole, M. (2016). 6 tips for creating powerful assessments for your students. Retrieved April 6, 2021 from *Gettingsmart.org,* [*https://www.gettingsmart.com/2017/05/6-tips-for-creating-powerful-assessments-for-your-students/*](https://www.gettingsmart.com/2017/05/6-tips-for-creating-powerful-assessments-for-your-students/)

**Please share examples** of how courses in your program are designing effective online student learning assessments and I will feature those examples on [YU’s Learning Assessment Website](http://yu.edu/provost/assessment/).

**Note:** If you need any assistance with creating or evaluating online student learning assessments, please contact me.

**Important Reminder:** Spring 2021 assessment reports will be due by **Tuesday, June 1.** If you have any questions about preparing your report, please contact me.